and nature of nuclear weapons that can be prepared with it; and

(c) what is Government's response in view of the security perceptions arising from Pak nuclear capability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government are aware of the clandstine and weapons oriented nature of Pakistan's nuclear programme.

(c) Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take all necessary measures to safeguard.

Pending applications for passport on the country

639. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the office-wise details of pending applications for passports in the country as on date;

(b) what are the reasons for delay in disposal of such applications; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to ensure minimum time in grant of passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Office-wise details of applications for fresh passports as on 1-10-1993 are given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below).

(b) There was a marked increase in the number of applications for fresh passports from 15.74 lakhs in 1990 to 24.03 lakhs in 1991 and 24.72 lakhs in 1992. This increase in demand combined with inadequate staff strength and a shortfall in booklet supply, resulted in delays in disposal of passport applications and the build-up of a backlog.

(c) Government have taken a number of measures to reduce the time taken to issue passports. These include, *inter alia*, augmentation of staff strength, increased supply of passport booklets, introduction of an incentive scheme, upgradation of office facilities and a review of systems and procedures in order to increase productivity and reduce delays.

Statement

Status of fresh applications from Jan. to 1st. Oct. 1993 (*Provisional*)

Office	Receipt	Issue	Applications under process as on 1-10-93	More than one month pendency
1	2	3	4	5
Ahmedabad	85853	103015	23055	11211
Bangalore	87459	65547	40586	23112
Bareilly	46476	50830	6872	2912
Bhopal	19833	19165	4034	1221
Bhubaneshwar	7037	7873	2237	610
Bombay	159503	154991	51676	19527
Calcutta	31459	40509	13403	5820
Chandigarh	57683	68338	72086	62662
Cochin	90721	140496	12385	11172

1	2	3	4	5
Delhi	99545	99503	33881	12610
Goa	12631	12066	2592	145
Guwahati	6014	6894	2781	1699
Hyderabad	158093	167095	26859	12928
Jaipur	51523	87336	14056	8800
Jalandhar	64219	80130	83392	73547
Kozhikode	150659	255266	61146	52552
Lucknow	99455	102299	83293	66840
Madras	119570	161772	23162	19862
Nagpur	10093	9609	1362	57
Patna	34848	35932	42104	38531
Trichy	160682	258307	56552	36354
Trivandrum	95307	157441	20862	10814
Total :	1648663	2084414	678376	472986

News item regarding Gurudwara in Pakistan

640. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item published in the Tribune dated 3rd September, 1993 captioned "Gurudwaras made mosques;

(b) if so, whether Government have ascertained the actual position in the regard from Pakistan Government; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the information received in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government as wells as leaders of Sikn Jathas have drawn the attention of the Pakistan Government to the reported state of disrepair of the Gurudwaras in Pakistan. The maintenance and preservation of places of religious worship in Pakistan is essentially the responsibility of the Government of Pakistan.

Resolution passed by Parliament of Pakistan on Hazratbal Shrine

641. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan Parliament passed a resolution calling upon India to lift the saize of Hazratbal Shrine and urging the United Nations to take concerate steps for the implementation of its resolution for settlement of Jammu and Kashmir dispute;

(b) if so, whether India protested to Pakistan and conveyed to Pakistan that it is a violation of international law by interfering in other country's internal affairs; and

(c) if so, what steps Indian Government have taken to counter-attack the propaganda by Pakistan among foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) On November 1, 1993, a Joint Session of the Parliament of Pakistan passed a resolution on the Hazratbal Shrine.